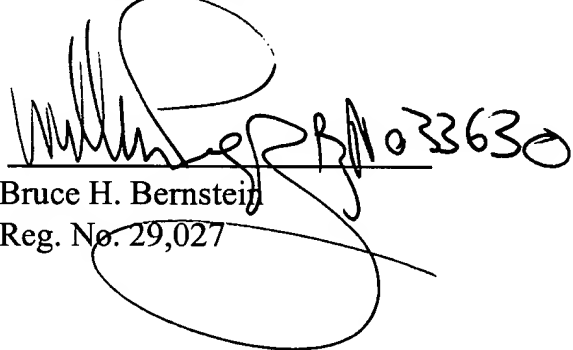


REMARKS

By the above amendment, new claims have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. These claims essentially correspond to claims submitted by an amendment under Article 34 in International Application No. PCT/SG/98/00102 upon which the present application relies for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Thus, since the new claims were not submitted in view of the prior art, no estoppel should attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Preliminary Amendment, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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